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Foreword

By Rt. Hon. JAMES BRYCE

IT is eminently fitting that the great problem of how permanent peace is to be created and maintained in the world should be fully discussed by the American Academy of Political and Social Science. It has been occupying many of the best minds in England, and even more of such minds in the United States; and there is a strong hope here that when the amended draft of the Peace Covenant now being prepared by the Conference in Paris comes to be published it will be in a form that will deserve and receive the approval of the American people. With that approval, however, the work of the friends of peace will not have ended. Details will have to be filled in. Rules of procedure will have to be adopted. In both these departments the public opinion of those who have studied the subject in both our countries may be and ought to be of high value. When mandates are given to and accepted by any powers under the provisions of the covenant, the same public opinion must continue to watch the manner in which such mandates are carried out, and the way in which the supervision to be given by the league is exercised. The experiment is novel, and it is difficult.

We must also remember that the frontiers of the new states that are being set up, or extended in area in eastern and southeastern Europe, and in the Near East, have not yet been drawn. It is of the utmost consequence that in drawing these frontiers the principles of nationality and self-determination of peoples shall be faithfully observed, for if they be overridden to gratify the wishes of any ambitious power, the seeds of future discords and war may be sown. Here also there are matters on which public opinion ought to be watchful and well informed above all. It is for the friends of peace in all countries to strive for the creation of the spirit, in all the nations that enter the league, which will inspire and guide those in whose hands the direction of its policy will lie, helping them in their great task by sympathy and by keeping alive the enlightened public opinion which will aid them in their task. Earnestly do we hope that the American people, who have led the way in the pursuit of this high ideal, will not only enter the league but will give it that constant and wise support, without which it cannot succeed.